

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LETTER TO PRESIDENT BIDEN
FROM THE AMERICAN HELLENIC
INSTITUTE ON THE STATE OF
U.S.-GREECE RELATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Hellenic Institute to President Biden regarding the Institute's present perspective on the state of the U.S.-Greece relations. The letter includes discussion of issues on defense, security, and counterterrorism; international commerce and trade and energy security; and the Cyprus issue.

APRIL 22, 2021.

President JOSEPH R. BIDEN,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN: On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), thank you for your remarks to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence. Although many aspects of your remarks resonated with the Greek American community, the following excerpt struck a chord:

"What really binds us together are our values. We are two people rooted in a common conviction that every human being is entitled to be treated with dignity. And it is our shared commitment to liberty, human rights, and the rule of law, that empowers us to write our own futures, whether 200 years ago or today."

Mr. President, the momentous occasion to mark Greece's Bicentennial provides the opportunity to convey the Institute's present perspective on the state of U.S.-Greece relations, which is flourishing under the "shared commitment to liberty, human rights, and the rule of law" that you correctly and eloquently stated. Unfortunately, malign actors in the region, especially Turkey, display a blatant and an intense disregard for these shared values with provocative actions that threaten the United States' allies and strategic partners as well as our interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

It is in the United States' best interest for Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean to be politically, economically and socially stable, and for democratic principles to flourish, including adherence to the rule of law. Greece is an immensely valuable link as "a pillar of stability" in the region as several high-level U.S. government officials have noted.

The U.S.-Greece relationship has reached new heights by virtue of an ongoing Strategic Dialogue, which include avenues for cooperation across sectors, such as: regional cooperation, defense and security, and trade and investment, among others, are plotted for implementation.

DEFENSE, SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Greece advances U.S. interests as a pivotal and dependable NATO and a frontline state against terrorism. The Mutual Defense Co-

operation Agreement between the United States and Greece illustrates the two allies' commitment to address longterm security challenges in the region. The Agreement currently is under revision. After it is upgraded, it will offer more flexibility to deepen cooperation in the defense sector, according to Greece's Minister of Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos, with whom I held a public discussion last month. For its part, Greece further demonstrates its commitment to the Alliance as one of a minority of NATO members to meet NATO's minimum standard on defense expenditures; second only to the U.S., by percentage. To demonstrate further:

Souda Bay, Crete: in our view, the most important U.S. military facility in the Mediterranean Sea from where in the past joint USN/USAF reconnaissance missions and air refueling support for U.S. and NATO operations were implemented successfully and continues to be immensely important.

NATO Joint-Command HQ: Thessaloniki hosts a NATO Rapid Deployment Corps combined with its Third Army Corps for two years.

Operation Atlantic Resolve: Greece enables a substantial portion of the U.S. Army's 10th Combat Aviation Brigade to enter the European theater through the port of Thessaloniki and to depart through Alexandroupolis. Alexandroupolis is being recognized as a city with increased geostrategic importance, which can also contribute to economic development and energy security.

USAF temporarily operated MQ-9 Reaper Drones from Greece's Larisa Air Force Base.

The 101st Combat Aviation Brigade of the U.S. Army, from October–Nov 20, 2020 and from February–Mar 21, 2021, stationed and trained at Volos and Stefanovikeio.

It is evident Greece contributes significantly to U.S. interests. However, it becomes increasingly challenging for Greece to fulfill this important role when it constantly is expending valuable resources to defend itself against aggressive and provocative behavior emanating from a fellow NATO member, Turkey.

Turkey engaged in over 7,000 violations of Greece's territorial waters and airspace in 2020. There were 4,605 airspace and 3,215 maritime incidents.

Turkey's routine challenges to Greece's sovereignty must cease and desist. In fact, Greece's Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff, General Konstantinos Floros, called out Turkey's provocative behavior, stating to an AHI audience on April 1, 2021 that Turkey threatens "Greece's sovereign rights." In this context, Gen. Floros explicitly cited as example the maritime border Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Turkey and Libya. In addition, U.S. Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt has called the MoU "unhelpful" and "escalatory" in nature in previous public statements. Ambassador Pyatt also affirmed the internationally recognized legal concept that "inhabited islands as a matter of customary international law are entitled to the same treatment as continental territory."

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND TRADE AND ENERGY SECURITY

Greece also is an important player in international commerce and trade, especially via its shipping industry. According to Greek shipping industry statistics, 22.5% and

20.3% of the Greek-owned fleet's activity is dedicated to the U.S. and the European trade, respectively; and "Greek-owned ships represent almost 21% of the global tonnage."

AHI requests the Administration maintain high-level engagement with Greece on economic relations and encourages future U.S.-Greece economic relationships to pursue commercial partnerships and opportunities for more U.S. investment in Greece.

However, it is important to note that Turkey also threatens Greece's economic development. Turkey exploits its control over the flow of migrants to Europe, in essence, weaponizing them. Historically, Greece has carried the heavy burden of migrant flows to Europe, which has had a detrimental impact upon Greece's economy. Prime Minister Mitsotakis has been very clear to state that Turkey bears its responsibility due to Turkey's ability to control "the flows in the Aegean."

Moreover, Turkey's threat to energy security in the region is not in the best interests of the United States and stymies Greece's potential as an energy hub. Turkey has encroached upon Greece's continental shelf off the coast of the Greek island complex of Kastellorizo in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. This island complex is sovereign Greek territory. It has a continental shelf as defined under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea which is part of the Greek continental shelf. The island complex is also part of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which is available to Greece. Ambassador Pyatt underscored upholding international law when he stated the U.S. position that islands have "exactly the same" continental shelf and exclusive economic zone rights as does any mainland territory. "I have also made a point on many occasions . . . that the United States adheres to the principal of international maritime law that islands, including Kastellorizo, have exactly the same continental shelf and EEZ rights as does any mainland territory," Ambassador Pyatt stated to reporters on July 23, 2020.

Turkey also has exercised "gunboat diplomacy" in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkish drillships have been in Cypriot waters, conducting activities illegally in violation of Cyprus' sovereignty and international law. AHI welcomes the United States' stated support for the Republic of Cyprus's right to develop its natural resources, including in its exclusive economic zone.

THE CYPRUS ISSUE

A key to peace and stability in the region is for good neighborly relations among NATO members and respect for the rule of law. However, Turkey's continuing occupation of Cyprus, which is a member of the European Union; its intransigence in solving the Cyprus problem, and its refusal to recognize the Republic of Cyprus, are detrimental to U.S. interests. To illustrate Turkey's intransigence, Turkey insists on maintaining troop levels in Cyprus and on remaining a guarantor power as part of a solution to the Cyprus issue, which led to the collapse of settlement talks in 2017.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken's response on the Cyprus issue during a March 10th, 2021 House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing is welcomed: "We strongly support a comprehensive settlement that reunifies Cyprus in a Bicomunal Federation. We

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

engage in the effort to advance that prospect, including the supportive role of the United Nations, and as well, direct American engagement in that effort. So I think you'll see American diplomacy fully engage."

However, Mr. President, as a public servant who advocated for upholding the rule of law on Cyprus throughout your long career, I am reminded of your January 27, 1989 letter to then AHI Chairman Dean Lomis, where you stated: "... we must urge the new Administration [President George H.W. Bush] to make Cyprus a higher policy priority in American foreign policy ... we cannot lose sight of the fact that the rights of Greek Cypriots have been trampled upon, and we must ensure that their claims to ancestral land and property seized during the 1974 invasion are not compromised. Finally, we must send a signal to Turkey that until it has removed every last soldier from Cyprus, it will never be recognized as a full member of the international community."

It is this same clear message to Turkey regarding Cyprus that the United States must send today because the conditions are the same, if not worse, as recent public discourse emanating from the Turkish government has called for a two-state solution.

Mr. President, the United States-Greece relationship is a strong and healthy one thanks in large part to the shared values identified in your Greek Independence Day celebratory remarks. Greece has proven to be a "pillar of stability," a frontline state to combat terrorism, and a reliable NATO ally. AHI anticipates that bilateral relations, which are at a high point, will be taken to even greater heights during your Administration. By contrast, Turkey is the perpetrator of instability in the Eastern Mediterranean and broader region which is detrimental to U.S. security interests. Turkey is a failed NATO ally that cozies up to Russia and Iran and is a threat to U.S. allies and strategic partners. The U.S. must demonstrate strong, unequivocal support of Greece by continuing to strengthen relations across all sectors and by applying the rule of law to Turkey for its illegal actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

NICK LARIGAKIS,
President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP NATHANIEL JAMES DAVIS, SR., TH.D.

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Bishop Nathaniel James Davis, Sr., Th.D. He was profoundly devoted to his faith and his family, and dedicated his life to serving his community.

Bishop Davis moved to Seattle in 1955, and quickly became a pillar in the Christian community. He joined the Bethel Christian Church of the Apostolic Faith shortly after moving, finding a home among other service- and family-minded members of the organization. He was deeply involved with the Bethel Christian Church, and has undoubtedly touched the lives of countless members of the Seattle community. After many years of selflessness and dedication, Bishop Davis became a Pastor at the Bethel Christian Church, a position he held for 37 years. His legacy and influence

are felt by countless members of the Church, where he was a fixture for more than 65 years.

Bishop Davis' leadership and commitment to his faith extended beyond his work in Seattle. He was the founding Bishop of the Alaska District Council, serving as Diocesan of the 56th Episcopal District and presiding over the Council for 9 years. He was deeply dedicated to his family, and was married to Evangelist Dr. Addie Davis for 64 years. He leaves behind his wife, 13 children, 41 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, who will undoubtedly carry on his legacy of service and leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and honor that I recognize the life of Bishop Nathaniel James Davis, Sr. His life and dedication to serving his community should be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

On November 11, 2021, Veteran's Day, the United States will mark 100 years since the interment of an unidentifiable member of the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I at Arlington National Cemetery.

The place of interment has come to be known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and is regarded as America's most sacred shrine. It is dedicated to all veterans that have served and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our great nation.

My congressional district is home to over 70,000 veterans and their families; and on this day and every day, we honor ALL who served and continue to serve our country.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER CARL BLUBAUGH

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Carl Blubaugh for his 55 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters pro-

vide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Blubaugh has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

HONORING KAREN KENINGER, DI- RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL LI- BRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED, IN CELE- BRATION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a noteworthy occasion at the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS)—the retirement of Director Karen Keninger. Having dedicated nearly a decade of service under two Librarians of Congress, Karen's devotion to the NLS collection shows in the excellence she has brought to the program through both expansion of the collection and innovation of service.

The NLS is an institution committed to serving readers with disabilities with the mission of ensuring "that all may read". Offering free braille and talking book library services for people with temporary or permanent reading disabilities, the NLS has played an instrumental part in ensuring that the Library of Congress' collection can be enjoyed by all Americans.

As director of the NLS, over her nearly decade of leadership, Karen has doubled the collection of talking books and magazines while reducing production time for reading materials. She has opened up new worlds for all NLS patrons by ushering in the creation of mobile apps for downloading books and magazines in audio and braille, as well as advocating that the United States be a party to the Marrakesh Treaty, which provides for the exchange of accessible-format books across international borders. Her mission to ensure "that all may read" was all the more realized through her instrumental involvement in the launch of braille eReader device pilot programs to both increase the speed of getting materials to patrons and reduce storage and delivery requirements for materials for librarians.

Beyond the collection, Karen has played the lead role in the renovation of the NLS satellite office building and the adoption of a new, modernized name for NLS reflecting its service to not only blind Americans, but to the larger print disabled community. She ushered in a new era of NLS service and restructured the organization to better align with the mission of the Library to provide access for all the American people.

This year, the NLS celebrated its 90th Anniversary. It is due to dedicated servants of the American people, like Karen, that we owe our thanks for a successful and influential program that touches American lives every day.

IN HONOR OF INDIANA CIVIL
RIGHTS ICON, HURLEY GOODALL

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of Hurley Goodall, former Indiana State legislator, civil rights icon, and one of the founding members of the Indiana Democratic African American Caucus, who passed away on May 12, 2021.

Hurley was a lifelong resident of Indiana, who spent his life dedicated to community service and fighting for the rights of others. He was a graduate of Muncie Central High School before serving two years in the United States Army.

As Muncie's first African-American firefighter in 1958, Hurley began to forge a trail for young African-Americans. Hurley continued to serve his community, as the first African-American to be elected to the City of Muncie's school board in 1970. He then served seven terms in the Indiana General Assembly, where he helped to establish the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus.

Hurley believed in setting an example for young men and women, and helping them succeed. He established a scholarship program, with his wife, Fredine, to support up and coming leaders to continue their education at a local community college.

Hurley is survived by his son Fredrick; his nephew, Robert; as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Hurley Goodall and honor his remarkable achievements throughout his full life.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD ROHRMAN**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Rohrman on his retirement and thank him for his 26 years of dedicated service to New Community Corporation.

Mr. Rohrman has done tremendous work for Newark and my 10th Congressional District as CEO of one of our most important community development corporations. New Community Corporation was founded in Newark, New Jersey in 1968 during a time of great civil unrest throughout the community. At the time, it provided local services from housing to healthcare to banking to help it rebuild after the Newark Rebellion. The mission of the corporation is to "help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement."

Mr. Rohrman has helped the corporation achieve its goals throughout his 26 years of working for the betterment of Newark residents. In his role as CEO, he has worked to provide \$75 million in renovations to 1,100 housing units for my district's most vulnerable populations. He implemented a real estate development plan to create more housing and ownership opportunities for moderate income

families. Also, he developed and expanded programs to improve the health and healthcare options for underserved communities.

He has many important achievements during his time at the organization. He was responsible for the maintenance and security of charter schools, day care centers, a health care complex, and corporate offices for New Community. He managed a portfolio of small businesses, including an upscale restaurant, sandwich shop, health spa, print and copy center, food court, and grocery delivery service. In addition, he supervised the final phases of renovation of St. Joseph Plaza, a historic, former church originally built in 1882 that now houses New Community's corporate headquarters. Finally, Mr. Rohrman led a company-wide energy cost reduction initiative that saved the company more than \$300,000 annually and a beautification program that involved landscaping more than 40 acres of company-managed property.

Mr. Rohrman has been a strong advocate for the underprivileged and strong supporter of actions and initiatives to help our underserved communities. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rohrman on his retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated and honorable service.

**HONORING MR. JERRY COOPER ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Jerry Cooper on the occasion of his retirement after twenty years of service as the County Manager in Cherokee County, Georgia.

Throughout his lengthy career in public service, Jerry has promoted fiscal responsibility, ethical leadership, and superior service. Under his leadership as County Manager, Cherokee County has seen tremendous growth, transforming from a distant exurb of Atlanta into a thriving community to live, work, and play. In 2008, his leadership was put to the test as the 'great recession' upended small communities, like Cherokee County, across the country. Jerry met the emerging challenges with an unwavering resolve, and Cherokee County improved upon its pre-recession debt rating to an S&P AA+ rating at a time when many other communities were still reeling from the crisis. He developed a professional code of ethics for public employees, enhanced local emergency services, and improved public facilities, all while maintaining an estimated \$106 million in tax savings for Cherokee County taxpayers over the course of his career.

In addition to his role as County Manager, Jerry has served on the boards of the Malon D. Mimms Boys & Girls Club, Reinhardt University, the Rotary Club, and the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce. He served as President of the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council, the Cherokee Educational Founda-

tion, and was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award from Allen Temple Church.

Prior to his career in public leadership, Jerry served in the United States Navy as a submariner aboard the U.S.S. *Sam Rayburn*. After traveling the world in service to our country, the Arkansas native returned home and obtained a Masters of Public Administration from the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Later he settled in Georgia, where he has spent much of his career life. He and his wife Sherry plan to enter this new phase of life, taking time to enjoy the community they have worked tirelessly to build over the past two decades.

On behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I earnestly congratulate Mr. Cooper on his retirement, and thank him for his years of public service.

**HONORING FIREFIGHTER CARL
SHUCK, SR.**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Carl Shuck, Sr. for his 50 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Shuck has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MS. JANE SANCHEZ, DEPUTY
LIBRARIAN FOR LIBRARY COL-
LECTIONS AND SERVICES**

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and career of Jane Sánchez, Deputy Librarian for Library Collections and Services, and 25th Law Librarian of Congress.

Earlier this year, the Library of Congress mourned the loss of Ms. Sánchez who brought her wealth of knowledge and experience to government service in the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S.

Government Publishing Office prior to joining the Library of Congress. She also was well loved for her time with Harvard University and the University of New Mexico, and received many awards in her career, including one from the U.S. Department of Energy for sustained superior service.

Her time at the Library of Congress began in 2014 as lead of the Humanities and Social Sciences division and not long after, she became the Deputy Librarian for Library Collections and Services, as well as the 25th Law Librarian of Congress. Her colleagues said that she “led the Law Library of Congress during times of profound change and challenges,” and that she was a “visionary leader of the Law Library, whose profound contributions made the institution, and its links to the American people, stronger and more impactful.” According to another colleague, “numerous digital projects, webinars, LibGuides, and of course the Legal Research Institute will serve as her legacy.” Even the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, stated that Jane was a “remarkable colleague.”

The legacy of Ms. Sánchez’s service to our Nation certainly reflects that. I wish to extend my greatest thanks to Ms. Sánchez for her decades of public service and express my deepest sympathies to her family and colleagues.

INTRODUCING HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF WONDER BREAD IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to honor the 100th anniversary of the creation of Wonder Bread at Taggart Baking Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. This bicameral and bipartisan resolution recognizes that this storied company, with deep Indiana roots and its iconic Wonder Bread product, made lasting impacts on American life and showcased the best of Hoosier values.

With hard work and a pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps story, the Taggart Brothers’ creation of Wonder Bread in Indianapolis jumpstarted an innovation in commercial baking that touched American lives from the Midwest heartlands to our nation’s coasts. Americans from all walks of life know Wonder Bread, and just as many enjoyed childhood memories with this iconic product and lunch-box favorite.

Indianapolis has long been a haven for hard-working entrepreneurs with big ideas—from Madam CJ Walker to the current generation of visionaries. That Wonder Bread can tout Hoosier roots, is yet another example of our state’s industrial and entrepreneurial spirit. I am honored to join many of my House colleagues who represent Indiana and Senator BRAUN, on the Senate side, in celebrating this legacy through our resolution commemorating and honoring the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Wonder Bread.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF MARY GREEN
ROONEY

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, on April 30, 2021, the people of Orange County, California lost a selfless member of their community and I have lost a dear friend with the passing of Mary Green Rooney of Newport Beach.

Throughout her life, Mary epitomized the virtues of service and compassion. From her time at the University of Southern California to her work at Rutan & Tucker, to her contribution teaching Sunday school at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, she always lifted up those around her.

Mary will be deeply missed. She was a woman of great faith and sincere commitment to doing good for her community and the ones she loved so dearly. To her husband Peter, and her two sons Brett and J.B., who I know she was so very proud of, I extend my greatest sympathy in this time of deep sorrow. I will keep Mary and her family in my prayers in the days to come.

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC PREVENTION AND BIOSECURITY ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Global Pandemic Prevention and Biosecurity Act, a bill that would create a diplomatic global effort to ban the sale of live and fresh wildlife for human consumption. This policy, and the authorization of corresponding programs, would reduce risk and increase research of zoonotic diseases, support reduction of wildlife trafficking, and expand programs that aim to close wildlife markets.

This bill also authorizes programs to address the demand for live and fresh wildlife for human consumption by improving nutritional choices and outcomes while protecting critical wildlife areas.

A whole-of-government approach that embraces a One Health model is critical to ensuring that we are much better prepared for another zoonotic disease like COVID-19, that we understand its risks, and that we can mitigate spread from animals to humans.

My legislation would create a Global Zoonotic Disease Task Force. It would also require a multi-sectoral strategy from USAID to reduce the demand for wildlife consumption through food security interventions, and authorize an integrated zoonotic disease program to research and conduct surveillance of priority and unknown diseases, and to prevent spillover through behavioral changes.

I am thrilled to be joined in leading this bill with my colleague on the State and Foreign Operations House Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY, and in the Senate with Senators CHRIS COONS

and LINDSEY GRAHAM. I urge our colleagues on both sides of the chamber to help us pass this important measure.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ARMORED DIVISION’S ARRIVAL TO EL PASO, TEXAS

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th anniversary of the 1st Armored Division’s arrival to El Paso, TX.

Nicknamed the Old Ironsides, the 1st Armored Division was founded in 1940 at Fort Knox. They have valiantly protected our nation in the toughest battles—World War II, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Persian Gulf War, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Old Ironsides have called many places home, including Fort Hood and West Germany. On May 13, 2011, they found their home at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Over the last 10 years, America’s future military leaders are being trained at Fort Bliss and about 30,000 Iron Soldiers continue to exercise mission commands of the Army. The 1st Armored division and their families have become integral members of our community—their presence at Fort Bliss supports our local economy and creates a richer and more diverse culture.

I, and the rest of the El Paso community, are appreciative of the 1st Armored Division’s service to our country and are grateful for each of the Old Iron Soldiers for their sacrifices, service, and leadership. The El Paso, Texas community is proud to call the First Armored Division the home of America’s tank force.

HONORING YOLANDA BROWN FOR 30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Yolanda Brown for her exemplary leadership and dedication throughout her 30-year career with the Florida Department of Corrections Inspector General’s Office.

Throughout her career, Ms. Brown exemplified the finest qualities associated with the law enforcement profession. She has distinguished herself as a caring leader and a generous person to all those who have had the pleasure of working alongside her. Ms. Brown’s decades of service and sacrifice have undoubtedly made our community safer.

On behalf of the Fifteenth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again to Yolanda Brown for 30 distinguished years of service, becoming an Eagle Scout. It’s an honor to represent dedicated Americans like Ms. Brown in Congress.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER DAVE LAUVER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Dave Lauver for his 45 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Lauver has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN CARDONI, MY VIRTUAL GUEST OF HONOR FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Cardoni, my virtual guest of honor to President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s first address to a Joint Session of Congress. John is one of the many heroes of this pandemic who I am proud to represent in the House of Representatives. When he fell on pandemic hard times, he refused to give up in the face of adversity.

John lives in Dupont, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Agnes Cardoni, Ph.D. and their son, Christopher. He is the Facility Director for the esteemed Scranton Cultural Center, which was devastated by the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic as so many large event venues were. Although he was laid off early on amid the COVID-19 outbreak, John and his family were able to make ends meet with the help of direct economic impact payments and enhanced unemployment insurance made possible through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. These relief lifelines helped John and his wife keep up with their mortgage payments and meet out-of-pocket medical expenses.

A diabetic and transplant recipient, John also understood that his medical history put him at higher risk for serious COVID-19 infection, and so he was careful to avoid close contact with others outside of his immediate household.

Now, over a year later, and several weeks since the enactment of the American Rescue Plan, John and his family are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and he has been able to gather with his mother and sisters safely in person once again. Additionally, he has been able to make plans to safely reopen the Scranton Cultural Center's doors and continue providing enriching experiences for Northeastern Pennsylvanians of all ages.

Throughout this past year, President Biden has often warned the world, "it has never, ever, been a good bet to bet against the American people." He is right, and Americans like John are the people he has in mind when he boasts this sentiment.

Although I regret being unable to have John accompany me in the House chamber in person due to COVID-19 safety protocols in place at the time, I am humbled to uplift his comeback story. It is a shining example of American resilience and determination through the darkest of times.

I recognize his story in honor of him, as well as all the Northeastern Pennsylvanians who suffered, sacrificed and persevered through this pandemic.

HONORING TOMMY STEVENSON AND 36 YEARS OF TOMMY'S COUNTRY HAM HOUSE

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Tommy Stevenson on his retirement after 36 years of service to our community. His well-lived life, risk-taking, and hard work paid off, and he achieved the American Dream by establishing the single most iconic restaurant in Greenville.

More than a restaurant, Tommy's Country Ham House became the social and political heart of Greenville. There is a saying that "the road to the White House begins at the Ham House." Over the years, generations of aspiring politicians visited Tommy's in the weeks leading up to South Carolina's "First in the South" primary. The many signed pictures hanging on the restaurant "Wall of Fame" are a testament to the esteem in which he is held by generations of public servants and other luminaries.

His service to our community has also extended far beyond the political realm, whether it be feeding the Furman University football team before games or providing generous discounts to our law enforcement community. I would also like to commend Tommy for employing individuals with intellectual disabilities or substance abuse problems, who are often forgotten by society when they need a hand.

Tommy treated all of his employees with the same kindness and respect that he showed his own family, and he allowed my staff to establish an "unofficial" office at the Ham House to assist countless disabled veterans and widowed constituents in obtaining much-needed Federal benefits. Tommy's giving spirit is truly an inspiration to us all.

Although Governor McMaster has already bestowed Tommy with the Order of the Palmetto, our community will never be able to fully thank him for the past 36 years of service

to the people of Greenville and the Upstate as a whole. As this chapter of Tommy's incredibly successful business career closes, my wish is that another, equally fulfilling chapter with his wonderful family opens. May God continue to bless him and his.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, PARKS, AND LIBRARIES ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a call to action regarding the right to clean drinking water. Clean drinking water is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right that should be accessible to all regardless of your socioeconomic status.

There are over 30,000 public playgrounds and parks in major U.S. cities and approximately 17,000 public library locations today. Children and students frequently congregate in those places for learning, borrowing a book, or having fun. But neither they—nor their parents—should have to worry that the drinking water may be unsafe.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. This bill would ensure states, municipalities, and libraries have the financial resources to replace drinking water fountains, monitor them, or replace the Lead Service Line connected to such fountains. While we can test water fountains for lead poisoning, some municipalities, schools, and libraries lack the resources to replace their water fountains; this is simply wrong. My bill will ensure such entities have the necessary financial resources to accomplish this task.

Exposure to lead—even low levels—can have serious health and development consequences for infants, children under six, and pregnant women. For those exposed to this dangerous element, signs of poisoning may include cognitive impairment, behavioral problems, and other health related problems. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "there is no safe amount of lead exposure in children . . .," which is why it is critical that we advance efforts that prevents lead poisoning.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Safe Drinking Water in Public Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. It is undeniable that the fate of our children and future generations rests on the decisions we make today on access to clean water. Let's ensure all enjoy this fundamental human right.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DAVE RAPALLO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dave Rapallo, Staff Director of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

For the last decade, Dave has skillfully guided the Members and staff of the Oversight

Committee with his incomparable mastery of strategy, oversight, and detail.

Few individuals have impacted this body as greatly as Dave. Countless Members of Congress have sought his counsel and come away more effective for it. Hundreds of staff learned the art of Congressional oversight and how to use the tools of Congress to demand answers on behalf of the American people.

Dave previously served as Chief Investigative Counsel under Chairman Henry Waxman. He led critical investigations exposing wartime contracting fraud in Iraq, the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame, steroid abuse in major league baseball, and the causes of the 2008 financial crisis.

Dave served as General Counsel on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and then was appointed by President Barack Obama as Senior Director on the National Security Council staff.

In 2011, Dave answered the call of the late Chairman Elijah Cummings, who asked Dave to serve as his staff director on the Oversight Committee. I know Chairman Cummings trusted Dave more than anyone to help make our government more efficient and more effective.

When I took over following the tragic death of Chairman Cummings, Dave helped ensure the Committee had a seamless transition.

Dave has never sought the spotlight but instead uses his talents to make those around him shine.

He demands excellence and gives nothing less himself. Dave worked harder than anyone I know, always thinking two steps ahead and finding the best route to get there.

More than anything, he is a dedicated public servant committed to using the powers of Congress to make a difference.

During the last Administration, Dave oversaw the Committee's efforts to ensure every person in America was counted in the Census, every American could exercise the right to vote, and every child separated from their parents at the border was reunited.

For all of this and so much more, we say thanks to Dave Rapallo. He has made a lasting impact on this body and this country.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER AMBER HOMA

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Amber Homa for her 15 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Homa has worked throughout her career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her work to protect life and property in our community and wish her continued health, safety, and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. STANLEY YOUNG LOUIE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Stanley Young Louie, affectionately known as the "Selma Doctor."

Dr. Louie provided healthcare to the community of Selma, California, for 22 years with the Logan Street Medical Group. Shortly after joining, he became the medical director and owner. Dr. Louie also served as the president of the Selma Healthcare District during his career.

Beloved by the Selma community, Dr. Louie was an active member of the Selma Rotary Club and Selma Chamber of Commerce, and he frequently contributed to the local newspaper and participated in community events. Dr. Louie also proudly celebrated his Chinese culture, serving as a member and president of the Fresno Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and participating in Lunar New Year celebrations with the Chinese New Year program at the Confucius School of Fresno.

Dr. Louie is remembered as a family man who enjoyed taking trips to the coast with his wife and daughters and was frequently involved in his daughters' extra-curricular activities. He is survived by his wife, Adriane; his parents, Sammy and Shirley; his daughters, Christina, Danielle, and Samantha; his brother, Stacey; his sister, Sherry; and many loving grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Stan Louie, the "Selma Doctor," as a flag is flown today over the United States Capitol in his memory.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARTHUR B. COOK, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my hometown of Corona, California whose dedication and contributions to our nation are exceptional. On Saturday, May 29, 2021, retired Lieutenant Colonel Arthur B. Cook, Jr. will serve as the 2021 Grand Marshal of the 7th annual Memorial Mile March. The March is an event hosted by the Corona Chamber Foundation to honor our military and those who have proudly served our nation in uniform.

Lt. Col. Cook proudly served in the United States Army for 27 years and 7 months. Early

on in his career, Lt. Col. Cook held the honor of Platoon Leader of the Old Guard, the Army unit that performs the funeral services for Arlington National Cemetery and guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On the solemn evening when President John F. Kennedy's body was brought to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Lt. Col. Cook was on duty with the Old Guard.

Later in his Army career, Lt. Col. Cook graduated with distinction from The Infantry School and Officer Candidate School. During a tour of duty in Vietnam, Lt. Col. Cook was awarded the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars for valor in action. He also received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal among many others. Upon returning from Vietnam he and his wife, Dickey, and daughter, Noelle, settled in Corona. The Cooks have lived in the same home in Corona since 1969.

In light of all that Lt. Col. Cook has done for our nation and community, it is only fitting to honor him as the Grand Marshal in the Memorial Mile March. On behalf of everyone in the 42nd Congressional District I want to thank Lt. Col. Cook for his service to our nation. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Lt. Col. Cook for being selected as the 2021 Memorial Mile March Grand Marshal.

HONORING PAMELA ANN WRIGHT FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO SARATOGA COUNTY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Ann Wright for her many years of selfless service to Saratoga County.

Born and raised in Galway, New York, Pamela began her career as a Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator in 1988. In 2010, she was appointed Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Since then, Pamela became a member of the New York State Association of Clerks of Legislative Boards in 2012 and was appointed to their Executive Board in 2016. She also currently serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. After 11 years as the Clerk and 33 years total serving within the Saratoga County government, Pamela is embarking on her well-deserved retirement. She has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the Board of Supervisors, and her dedication and perseverance to her role helped ensure her community ran smoothly.

In addition to her service in the county government, Pamela has also prioritized giving back to her community through community service. She currently serves as the President of the Hadley-Luzerne Lioness Club, an organization that works to raise awareness to local needs and pursues solutions through charitable works. She was awarded Lioness of the Month in October 2015 and March 2017. Additionally, she was awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award in June 2017 for her faithful dedication to the community and the Hadley-Luzerne Lioness Club.

Pamela truly has been dedicated to the Saratoga community. She embodies the North Country spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, always quick to lend a hand. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to thank Pamela for her contributions to the community and congratulate her on reaching this important milestone. I join many folks in our community in wishing her well in this next chapter of her life.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER BRANDY
RINGLER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Brandy Ringler for her 5 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Ringler has worked throughout her career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her work to protect life and property in our community and wish her continued health, safety, and success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. KAO
LY ILEAN HER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Ms. Kao Ly Ilean Her, a Hmong-American leader and University of Minnesota Board of Regent who died on May 13 at age 52 of COVID-19. Ms. Her was a tremendous advocate and a connector for our community and the State of Minnesota. Her passing is a loss that is felt deeply throughout Saint Paul and our state.

A refugee who fled war-torn Laos as a young girl in 1976, Ms. Her and her family arrived in the United States and eventually made Minnesota their new home. She excelled at academics, graduating from Hamline University and earning her Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School and becoming the first Hmong woman to be admitted to the Minnesota State Bar Association. In 2019, she was the first Hmong-American elected to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents by the Minnesota Legislature.

Ms. Her put her natural leadership skills to use for others early on—founding several non-profit organizations, promoting the empowerment of women and girls and supporting our community in many other ways. She was especially dedicated to efforts supporting youth, respecting elders and advocating for the arts that enrich and sustain us.

It was a privilege to work closely with Ms. Her throughout the time I've served in congress, and to experience her energy and optimism for building a bright future for herself and others. During her service as executive director of the Minnesota Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans in the early 2000s, she reached out to my office and volunteered to help lead the successful state efforts to resettle Hmong refugees arriving from Thailand. Her work to help these new Americans transition to life here were invaluable as they reconnected with family members, established new homes and quickly contributed to the economic and cultural vitality of our community.

Ms. Her understood the innate importance of family and the power that neighbors have in working together for the common good. Her ability to connect community members and empower others has spurred new leaders in the Hmong-American community and throughout our state. Her own path in life inspires a vision for others to believe in themselves and determine their own futures.

My condolences are with Ms. Her's beloved family and many friends. Madam Speaker, please join me in tribute to Kao Ly Ilean Her for her remarkable life of service and leadership for others.